



Alberta Environment Business Plan 05-08

vision

Alberta's environment sustains a high quality of life.

mission

Steward and protect Alberta's environment to sustain diverse ecosystems, healthy Albertans, strong communities and a prosperous economy.

valued behaviors

Respect, Knowledge, Continuous Learning, Shared-Responsibility, Integrity and Leadership

core businesses

- Core Business 1 – Assuring Environmental Quality
- Core Business 2 – Sharing Environmental Management and Stewardship

performance measures

GOAL 1

- Drinking Water Safety Indicator
- River Water Quality Index
- Air Quality Index
- Effective Water Management Infrastructure
- Community Flood Risk Mapping

GOAL 2

- Stakeholder Satisfaction with Ministry Services

GOAL 3

- Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills
- New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation
- Beverage Container Return Rate
- Used Oil Recovery Rate
- Water Use Efficiency and Productivity Indicator (under development)

strategic priority

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Alberta has outcome-based management systems, integrated sustainable resource and environmental management policies, and streamlined regulatory processes

GOAL 1

Alberta's environment is clean and safe

Strategies

- > Work with other ministries and stakeholders to further develop shared environmental outcomes and information systems that enable Albertans to access information on the environment in a timely manner.
- > Under the guidance of the Sustainable Development Coordinating Council, collaborate with other ministries to develop, implement and assess cross-ministry policies and strategies including Alberta's Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management.
- > Implement a monitoring, reporting, and evaluation framework for air, water and land.
- > Contribute to the development and implementation of an effective government-wide provincial land use strategy.
- > Develop and implement a comprehensive Waste Strategy to demonstrate leadership in resource conservation and reduce waste generation and disposal.
- > Resolve contamination and liability issues through flexible tools and incentives to promote the restoration of contaminated sites to productive use.
- > Enhance Alberta's comprehensive air management system by updating policies to maintain and improve Alberta's air quality.
- > Implement the recommendations of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance Electricity Project Team as part of the overall air emissions management system.

GOAL 2

Albertans receive effective and efficient services

Strategies

- > Develop and utilize additional regulatory and non-regulatory tools and incentives to encourage, support and reward effective environmental performance.
- > Increase capacity to deliver timely and coordinated regulatory approval and environmental assessment programs to meet the expanding needs of the economy and enhance Alberta's high level of environmental protection.
- > Deliver compliance assurance education awareness activities to increase understanding of regulatory requirements and maintain high levels of compliance across the province.
- > Implement frameworks for performance measurement, policy and program evaluation, and risk management to support effective performance management.

strategic priority

WATER

Albertans have a safe and sustainable supply of water

GOAL 1

Alberta's environment is clean and safe

Strategies

- > Work with other ministries, governments and stakeholders to begin to implement Alberta's Water Strategy, *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*, including:
 - Developing and implementing a phased, long-term strategy to protect Alberta's drinking water;
 - Developing water management objectives and priorities for watershed plans to sustain aquatic ecosystems, and enable sustainable economic development; and
 - Supporting best management practices in sectors to improve the efficiency and productivity of water use.
- > Support Alberta's water infrastructure sustainability by:
 - Operating and maintaining provincially owned water infrastructure;
 - Developing and implementing a management and reporting system; and
 - Working with municipalities and other ministries to respond to needs for infrastructure improvements.



GOAL 3

Albertans work with others
to safeguard the environment

Strategies

- > Improve department response systems to ensure effective and efficient handling of environmental concerns raised by Albertans.
- > Support Service Alberta by improving access to ministry services and implementing Service Alberta's service excellence tools.
- > Implement the Information Technology Framework to address the priority information needs of the Ministry, stakeholders and clients.
- > Encourage broader awareness and stewardship of the environment including enhancing the use of educational tools to support delivery of the sustainable resource and environmental management framework.
- > Implement a framework for fees and charges that provide incentives to achieve positive environmental outcomes.
- > Improve department-wide business continuity planning and preparedness, including implementation of a technical disaster recovery plan, in conjunction with Emergency Management Alberta.
- > Implement the Records and Information Management Strategic Plan.
- > Sustain and enhance the networks required to monitor environmental conditions.
- > Share responsibility for the environment and an improved management framework through cooperation and partnership with other ministries and stakeholders.
- > Work with other governments on a national environmental sustainability framework, national and international climate change and other priority issues.
- > Collaborate with the federal government, provinces and territories through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in support of Alberta's high quality environment.
- > Develop and enable new partnerships in education, organics, pollution prevention, water management and environmental stewardship.
- > Continue to work with provincial and local authorities and industry to clarify protocols for emergency response.
- > Complete and implement Ministry guidelines for Aboriginal consultation to ensure appropriate and effective consultation with Aboriginal communities in the Ministry's regulatory processes.
- > Implement place-based environmental management that recognizes natural boundaries for water, land and air including the Northern East Slopes Strategy and the Southern Alberta Sustainability Strategy.
- > Support the Cumulative Environmental Management Association's activities and their input to the implementation of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Athabasca Oil Sands by providing ongoing support through staff participation in Association working groups and representation on the Management Committee.
- > Enable the formation and development of airshed zones.
- > Collaborate through the Clean Air Strategic Alliance to develop plans for maintaining and improving Alberta's air quality.

GOAL 2

Albertans receive effective
and efficient services

Strategies

- > Respond to water concerns raised by Albertans and review current policy and regulations for coalbed methane development.
- > Effectively manage the impact of droughts, floods and toxic spills in coordination with Emergency Management Alberta.
- > Enable delivery of a broad range of water management tools and techniques.
- > Continue to improve the tools available to municipalities for flood risk avoidance.

GOAL 3

Albertans work with others
to safeguard the environment

Strategies

- > Help water-use sectors to develop and implement water conservation plans to meet Alberta's water conservation targets.
- > Work with stakeholders to implement recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Water Use Practice and Policy pertaining to the reduction or elimination of freshwater use in oilfield injection activities.
- > Support Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils to continue watershed management plans.
- > Educate Albertans on the value of water to the economy and quality of life.
- > Support the work of the Alberta Water Council on watershed management issues in the province.



strategic priority

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alberta takes effective action
on climate change

GOAL 1

Alberta's environment is clean
and safe

Strategies

- > Initiate actions that make Alberta a leader in energy efficiency improvements, carbon management strategies and adapting to climate change and variability.

GOAL 3

Albertans work with others
to safeguard the environment

Strategies

- > Implement the provincial strategy, *Albertans & Climate Change: Taking Action* by working with other governments and stakeholders on innovative and practical long-term solutions to address the risks of climate change.

strategic priority

STAFF CAPABILITY

Albertans receive exceptional
leadership and service from
Ministry of Environment
staff to assure effective
environmental management

GOAL 1

Alberta's environment is clean
and safe

Strategies

- > Enhance leadership capacity, knowledge and skills throughout the Ministry to support continuous improvement in environmental performance.

GOAL 2

Albertans receive effective
and efficient services

Strategies

- > Improve staff capacity to provide effective service through increased knowledge, skills and tools.
- > Support and implement a succession management framework in the department.

GOAL 3

Albertans work with others
to safeguard the environment

Strategies

- > Ensure Environment staff members have the knowledge, skills and opportunity to be strategic facilitators and relationship builders.

contact information

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